



United States Student Achievers Program 2010 Application Form

There are many determined and talented, economically-disadvantaged students in Zambia who lack only financial resources and access to information to better their educational futures. For the third year, the United States Embassy seeks to identify highly academically qualified and motivated, low-income, 2009 grade 12 graduates in Zambia to join the United States Student Achievers Program (USAP). USAP in Zambia's mission is to assist highly-talented and determined, economically-disadvantaged students to negotiate and finance the admissions process for colleges and universities in the United States with the aim of producing highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders for tomorrow's Zambia. USAP works closely with students through regularly scheduled meetings and seminars to assist them throughout the application process to secure admission and scholarships for colleges and universities in the United States. USAP finances all costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations. USAP expects a commitment of students to give back of their energy and time to the program and to their communities.

Students will work with our educational advising staff over this year and the next year to try to secure places and financial assistance to begin study in the U.S. in August 2011. ***ENTRANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM IS NO GUARANTEE OF A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES.***

To apply to USAP, you must currently be a highly-determined and hardworking student who wrote their ECZ or Cambridge exam in November **2009**. To be eligible for consideration, you must have a **VERY** strong academic record and be actively involved in co-curricular, leadership and community activities. All students admitted last year had 6 or 7 points in their best of 6 subjects on their EXZ exam or the equivalent. You must also demonstrate financial need that your family would not be capable of financing the US application process on your own. Successful applications will sit for the SAT exam, thus students may wish to begin studying before the inception of USAP. Please complete this application form and return it together with the required documents listed at the end of the application form by post or in person, no later than **Friday, April 30th, 2010** to:

Mailing Address:

Physical Address:

*Matthew Grollnek
Educational Advisor
American Center
P.O. Box 31617
Lusaka, Zambia*

*The American Center
COMESA Building
Ben Bella Rd.
Lusaka, Zambia*

*Tel: 211.227.993; Fax: 211.226.523
Email: EDULusaka@state.gov*

Photocopies of this form are acceptable. Because of the volume of applications, we will reply **ONLY** to successful candidates in May and may invite finalists for interviews. Please complete this application form fully, providing us as much information as possible about yourself, your dreams and ambitions, your family background and your academic and extracurricular record. Please send all parts of your application together at one time to ensure that your application is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

USAP 2010 Application Deadline: Friday, April 30th, 2010

Read directions carefully: It is essential that you attach to your application the documents listed below. Please do not send originals of certificates or reports as we cannot guarantee the return of any documents to unsuccessful candidates.

Include the Following Documents:

- 1) A **photocopy** of your ECZ grade 12 results, preferably stamped by your current school. Include Cambridge IGCSE or other results if applicable.
- 2) A full letter of recommendation attesting to your character, talent and skills by a teacher, headmaster, pastor or community leader who knows you well, either typed or handwritten. Please do not include a basic testimonial that does not talk about you as an individual.
- 3) Write two essays, one from Group A and one from Group B, each of at least one page:

Group A – Choose one only

Colleges and universities in the United States will want to get to know you as a person, both in and out of the classroom. Use this essay as an opportunity to let us get to know you, how you think and what's important to you. As we want to get to know you as an individual and not look for the most dramatic tale, is essential that all experiences related in these essays be a true and accurate depiction of your life.

A1. Describe a situation where your personal values were challenged and you were thus in the minority. How did you make yourself heard and how did you deal with the response to your decision or opinion? What can you learn from this experience to apply to your future? **(Please tell a true experience from your own life.)**

A2. Evaluate a positive or negative choice you have made that has influenced your life greatly. What have you learned about yourself and about the values involved in decision making from this experience?

A3. If someone invented a time-travel machine that allowed you to go back in time in your own life, and change something that either you or someone else did that has had a direct impact on your life, what would you change, and why? Reflect briefly in your conclusion on whether you think such a machine would be an asset or a detriment to society.

Group B – Choose one only

Regardless of your area of focus, if you attend college or university in the US, you will be exposed to and will take a wide variety of subjects from the humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences. With this liberal arts educational philosophy in mind, please answer one of the following questions to demonstrate your intellectual strengths.

B1. *"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."* Martin Luther King, Jr. Use evidence from your studies, your knowledge of current affairs and your experiences to write a paper agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.

B2. 2011 will be an election year in Zambia, where candidates for public office will need to convince the people that they would bring about positive change. If you were in contention to be the new Minister of Education, what would be your campaign platform? How would you positively reform the Zambian educational system? Write your manifesto!

B3. What is the greatest scientific discovery so far in the history of humankind? Describe its positive and potentially negative impact to justify your choice. If you could make one scientific discovery in your life, what would it be, and why?

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USAP APPLICATION FORM - 2010

Personal Information:

1. Full name (first name(s) followed by family name):
2. What name do you prefer to be called?
3. Home address where you reside when not at school:
4. Contact telephone(s) (**required**):
5. Email address, if any:
6. Date of Birth (Month, day, year):
7. Gender:
8. Mother's current occupation and workplace (Be specific, even if self-employed):
9. Father's current occupation and workplace (Be specific, even if self-employed):
10. If parents are deceased, state name, relationship, occupation and workplace of your legal guardian:
11. Number of direct siblings, their ages, and for each one, state whether or not they are in school, which school and what level. :
12. Number of other dependent people currently living with and supported by your family and each of their relationships to you:
13. Who paid for your high school fees? Were you on any bursary/scholarship? If so, how much did the bursary cover?
14. If your fees were paid for by a relative other than your parents, how many other children's fees are paid for by this same person?
15. Have you or your siblings ever missed a term of schools because of finances? IF so, please explain.

16. If you are from outside of Lusaka, do you have someone you can stay with in Lusaka when you are attending USAP meetings? Please state person's name, relationship to you, physical address and contact telephone number:

17. University applications will require you travel to your former high school to collect information and forms. If you live in a different area than your school, how do you plan on financing this travel?

Academic and School Information:

18. High School Name, Mailing Address and Phone Number:

19. Headmaster/Headmistress' Name:

20. High School subjects you are taking. Please circle your strongest subject:

21. Did you taking ECZ exams, University of Cambridge exams or another test?

22. What were you scores in Math and English?

23. List all extra-curricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate or have participated in at school and in your community and/or church. Circle the **one** to which you devote the most time and energy. If you want to give us a sample of your talents, feel free to attach evidence (ie photo, poem, drawing, musical recording, etc). *We regret that we cannot return materials sent to us.*

24. Please describe which one of these activities has the most meaning for you and why.

25. What is the most important academic prize or honor you have been awarded?

26. Did you hold any leadership positions at school? Please list them here and in which grades you held these positions (ie, prefect, Headgirl/boy, President or Secretary of a Club, Captain of a team, etc)

Short Answer Questions:

Feel free to use the back of this sheet or additional paper if the space is insufficient. We want to get to know you as a person through these questions.

27. What do you hope to study at university? What is your planned career and why? Feel free to mention more than one potential field of study and career path.

28. **Outside of your planned career and study path**, what are your academic passions? What skills do you want to master or what do you have a burning desire to know more about?

29. What else should we know about your background, your family and your financial situation?

30. Selection for USAP is very keen. Why should we select you over other highly-qualified Zambian students? What makes you unique?

31. What specific impact do you want to make on the future of Zambia? Assuming that you will return home one day after completing your studies in the USA, how will you contribute positively to your home community? Please don't think there is one correct answer!

32. Although USAP started in Zimbabwe, it also now works with students in 17 other countries. What would you want to share with other international USAP students about your home culture and country?

33. When completing this application, which questions was most challenging for you and why?

Thank you for applying for the USAP program. We look forward to reviewing your application!

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